Trial

c/o Macmillan & Co. Ltd.
St. Martin's St. London, W.C.
July 15, 1920.

My dear Mr. Aldington:--

If you think that I would "evade the point at issue" you are mistaken or misinformed. I have re-read my copy of my letter of July tenth and I do not find it evasive. It seems to me to be a frank and courteous admission that I consider my treatment of Imagism in "New Voices" somewhat inadequate. Having made this admission, to you and to others, I am in honor bound to treat the matter more thoroughly when occasion offers. That should go without saying.

Your first letter asks for a footnote in the next edition of my book. I am not in a position to promise that just now, for I do not know when, if ever, I shall be allowed to revise. There would be more than the one change to make. And if ever I get a chance, believe me, it will give me more pleasure to rewrite the passages which no longer satisfy me than it will give you or anyone else to have them rewritten.

In the meantime would you like me to write an open letter to Harriet Monroe's Poetry, saying that it has been called to my attention that the adjective "mauve" is not to be found in your work or in H. D.'s, and that my remarks on Imagism, which now seem somewhat inadequate to me, were generalizations on the work associated with the school as a whole, not comment directed especially against you, whose names I had mentioned earlier?

As for the truth or falsity of any statement it is well to remember certain facts-- the angle of vision and [illegible]. For example, you write me in your first letter that you and H. D. are now "practically the whole shooting match" in so far as Imagism is concerned. In your second letter you say that "mauve" is to be found in Mr. Flint's "Swan". I might reply to you in other words of your own, "Each one of these sentences is false." I don't because I know perfectly well that the first statement is false or true only in so far as it represents a point of view. As for the second, I have "Otherworld" on the table beside me and the adjective "mauve" is no longer to be found in "Swan". But I realize that you have probably found it in earlier copies of the poem and that there was no intentional inaccuracy. Even so with me there was no intentional misrepresentation, and, since you have given me the facts with regard to "mauve" you may count on me to do the decent thing.

In defence of my critical sense let me say that I find it quite easy to distinguish three individual styles in Mr. Flint's "Otherworld", H. D.'s beautiful masque printed recently in Poetry and your own war poems.

As for the critic whom you have called "an ass", he is not likely to talk about Imagism again, for he lies dead, I believe, in France.

What you may say of "New Voices" in the press is quite your own affair, a matter for your good taste and literary conscience to settle in your own way.

With good wishes, believe me,

Very truly yours,